

Journal

La Salle ANZPPNG

“Think highly of your work”

- Meditations for the Feast of Saint Matthew



Harvard Business Review (HBR) published an article on “The Most Important Leadership Competencies, According to Leaders Around the World”, in its March, 2016 edition. One hundred and ninety-five leaders across 15 countries over 30 global organisations were involved. What struck me most was that while the article was about leadership, as much as that, the qualities named are fundamental to a life well-lived. As I read it, I inserted ‘person’ in place of ‘leader’.

High ethical and moral standards were the primary competencies.

Such a person is committed to justice when dealing with others and themselves, with the Golden Rule a guiding light in their life. S/he creates a safe and trusting environment, where clear and respectful communication is the norm. Other highly rated qualities were self-organisation, a nurturing of growth (one’s own and others), and a capacity to connect. Sounds like a formula for success in the family, the classroom, in the community, or wherever we happen to be.

The list contains not all, but certainly a number of the key ingredients in helping develop a contented life as leader, teacher, mother, father, daughter, son, friend, colleague or mentor- or as Lasallians say, living as (big) brothers and (big) sisters to one another in community. De la Salle himself in the introduction to his Rules of Decorum noted: “... show

[to] others those signs of consideration, honour, and respect appropriate to members of Jesus Christ”.

This edition of Journal La Salle contains numerous examples of the HBR attributes for which one could insert Lasallian attributes. Whether it be the wonderful celebration of our Diamond and Golden Jubilarians; or the proud story of De La Salle Ashfield’s Centenary; or the Remote Schools’ Project in PNG making a genuine difference in the lives of so many students; or the Pakistan Outreach Project supporting brick-kiln indentured labourers. And closer to home, the highly successful introduction of co-education classes in Yr 7 at La Salle Catholic College, Bankstown, as well as the profiles of the respected Br Lewis Harwood and Ms Marie Hepi.

Br Jeff Calligan from the United States, currently visiting Lasallian schools across Australia, reminds us that: “To be Lasallian is to be a professional promoter of the growth of good in the lives of [others], especially in the lives of the young who seem debilitated and unable to secure it for themselves”.

Seems to me that the HBR article may well have been written with an eye on the attributes which daily mark the lives of Lasallians throughout the District of ANZPPNG.

Live Jesus in our hearts.

Merv McCormack

Executive Director,
Lasallian Mission Council

Honouring the 2016 Jubilarians

Oakhill College at Castle Hill in Sydney has hosted a major celebration, paying tribute to eight remarkable men, marking their 50th or 60th anniversary as De La Salle Brothers this year.

A mass was held on 15 May at the De La Salle Chapel in a building familiar to many of the Brothers as their training centre when they entered the novitiate more than half a century ago.

The celebrations coincided with not only Pentecost Sunday, but also the Feast Day of our Founder, St John Baptist de la Salle.

The celebration truly reflected the rich diversity of the Lasallian Mission in Australia, with half the Brothers having worked for the welfare agency yourtown (formerly BoysTown) and many having spent lengthy periods in Papua New Guinea and New Zealand.

Br William Good from the Scarborough community in

Brisbane and former Provincial and recently retired yourtown chair Br Ambrose Payne were marking their Diamond Jubilee, having joined the order in 1956.

Currently based in Rome as Interim Bursar of the Institute, Br Ambrose was unfortunately unable to attend the event.

Six Brothers celebrated their Golden Jubilee, including the Lasallian Facilitator at yourtown in Brisbane, Br Timothy Peter and yourtown’s Lasallian Coordinator at Blacktown in Sydney, Br David Zande.

Also marking his 50th anniversary was Br Denis Loft, well known for his work with Solidarity for South Sudan and as the former Principal of the Hohola Youth Development Centre and Jubilee Catholic Secondary School in Port Moresby.

Br Denis also established the highly popular Coolies program when he was a teacher in Melbourne, allowing senior

secondary students to embark on building projects in India when they graduate from high school.

Two Brothers from the Cronulla community, Gary Wilson and Geoffrey Kennewell also celebrated their Golden Jubilees, both having made a significant contribution to the Lasallian mission in Australia and beyond our District borders as well.

And from the Malvern community, Br Gabriel O’Shea marked his Golden Jubilee, well respected for his work in the remote PNG Highlands communities of Tapini and Mount Hagen in the 1980s and 1990s.

The Brothers all renewed their vows and were presented with candles marked with the Signum Fidei Crest of the De La Salle order which they all left around a statue of the Founder in the Oakhill chapel.

At a celebratory lunch, following the Mass, Diamond Jubilarian Br William Good led the cutting of a cake to mark a very special occasion for the Brothers and their friends and families.

Brother Visitor David Hawke also presented each Brother with a plaque to commemorate such a remarkable achievement.



Marking a Century of Lasallian Education in Sydney

Proud alumni have joined with current students and staff in marking a major milestone for the Lasallian mission in Sydney – the centenary of the first school in the city – De La Salle College Ashfield.

From humble origins with just three classrooms in 1916, the all-boys school in Sydney west has grown into a thriving secondary school with 650 students and has never lost touch with the Lasallian values upon which it was founded.

To mark this special milestone, the school community gathered for a Centenary Mass at St Mary's Cathedral on 6 May and a Formal Dinner that evening.

The strong, enduring pride many alumni feel for the school was evident from the outset of the mass with former college captains among those leading the procession into the cathedral.

Many Brothers, themselves graduates of De La Salle Ashfield played an active role in the mass.

Brothers David Zande and Phillip Elwin were among the readers and leaders in the universal prayer and another college graduate, the internationally respected Lasallian academic Br Gerard Rummy delivered a memorable reflection.

Br Gerard praised the courage shown by the six pioneering Irish Brothers who established De La Salle Ashfield in 1916 at the height of the First World War – a time when there was strong prejudice in Australia towards Catholics in the debate over conscription.

The principal address at the Centenary Mass was delivered by Br Peter McIntosh who led

the college as Principal from 1962-1967.

In his address, Br Peter reflected upon the unique “Ashy Spirit” of the school summed up in the Lasallian ideal “Enter to learn and leave to serve” and the College motto *Esto Vir* – translated from Latin as being the best man you possibly can be in life.

As De La Salle Ashfield now looks ahead to a new century, the Irish Brothers who established the school in 1916 would no doubt be proud of the faith and zeal which lives on in the Lasallian teachers still keeping the charism alive and vibrant there today.



Lasallians mark Founder's Day

School communities and workplaces across our District have gathered for special celebrations to mark the Feast Day of our Founder, St John Baptist de la Salle.

Founder's Day is traditionally celebrated on 15 May which commemorates the date in 1950 when the French priest was proclaimed the Patron Saint of Teachers by Pope Pius XI.

With the Feast Day falling on a Sunday this year, many schools chose to celebrate Founder's Day on Friday 13 May.

At De La Salle Malvern, the celebrations began with a staff breakfast, followed by a whole school mass, celebrated by Fr Martin Tanti in the College Gym.

Five De La Salle Brothers attended the Mass from the Malvern community, including Old Boy of the College, Br Paul Toohey who returned from a long stint in Papua New Guinea earlier this year.

After the Mass, students were able to enjoy a carnival type atmosphere, including jumping castles, a live DJ and an ‘open mic’ for talented singers and musicians.

The Deputy Principal of De La Salle Malvern (Faith and Mission), Mrs Rana Brogan said it was a great opportunity to celebrate the school's strong Lasallian heritage.

“It provided us with a time and space to stop and acknowledge our Founder and give thanks for being part of the rich Lasallian story”, she said.

At La Salle College Middle Swan in Perth, Founder's Day was an opportunity to focus attention on fundraising for a new twinned school in Pakistan.

The students and staff made generous donations to help the all girls school La Salle Sant Singh Wala in Faisalabad raise vital funds for a new computer lab.

At a number of Lasallian schools in Port Moresby, students presented gifts to thank their teachers for their dedication and support throughout the year.

At the Provincial Office of the De La Salle Brothers in Sydney, staff members enjoyed a delicious luncheon on Founder's Day prepared by a distinctly French theme, prepared by Office Administrator Pauline Toms.

The office was decorated in French colours with staff members enjoying a coq au vin and crème brulee and cheese and fruit platters to mark Founder's Day.



Smooth Transition to Coeducation at La Salle College Bankstown



The Principal of La Salle Catholic College Bankstown, Michael Egan says some clear benefits have already emerged in teaching and learning at the school since it introduced a coeducational Year 7 class at the start of this year.

After a long history as a largely all boys school, the western Sydney school enrolled 35 girls in Year 7 this year, with plans to become fully coeducational by 2021.

Next year, coeducation will be expanded to Year 8 and Michael says the school has received additional funding from the Catholic Education Office in Sydney to upgrade its facilities to allow it to double its enrolments over the next six years.

He says the shift has proven to be incredibly popular with parents in

the local area who were looking for a coeducational Catholic education for their children.

“It's led to greater enrolments from boys too because many parents were keen on ensuring all their children are at the same school”, Michael Egan explains.

“The Year 7 girls have been engaged in all aspects of school life, from our opening mass at St Mary's Cathedral through to debating, school camps and sporting competitions which has been really encouraging”.

He believes there have also been some clear benefits from the shift towards coeducation in the classroom as well.

“Many of the girls are voracious readers and they haven't held back from letting us know what additional books they'd like to see on the school library shelves”, Michael explains.

“This has definitely had a flow-on effect to enhancing the boys' literacy skills as well”, he adds.

Assistant Principal Leonie Dowd has helped oversee the changes, having had extensive experience in girls education prior to joining La Salle College last year.

“We've made some subtle changes to the curriculum, by expanding the range of novels studied in English classes and in the Technology and Applied Studies classes, students have the option of making a jewelry box, rather than just a tool box in the past”, Leonie said.

The school has introduced a Solomon Class for gifted and talented students, dance has been integrated into the curriculum and the inaugural La Salle College netball team competed for the first time last weekend.

Leonie Dowd says the longer-term shift towards a fully coeducational school will greatly expand the subject choices available for senior secondary students.

“We're expecting a stronger demand for the Society and Culture course in the senior years and the St Yon Trade Training Centre will be broadening its courses to cover expanded places in hospitality and courses in hairdressing as well”, Leonie explains.

“The long term impact on our school is a clear win-win situation for staff, parents and students”.

Southern Cross staff join in run against domestic violence

Staff members from Southern Cross Catholic College at Scarborough have joined with fellow teachers from Catholic schools across Brisbane to support an annual run/walk to raise community awareness about domestic and family violence.

The four Southern Cross teachers participated in the Darkness to Daylight run along the foreshores of South Bank on 4th May.

All participants joined in a liturgy prior to the run and heard an inspiring address from 2015 Australian of the Year Rosie Batty who spoke of her personal struggle with family violence, following the death of her son Luke.

110 children, women and men are killed in Australia every year from domestic and family violence

Participants in the Darkness to Daylight run can choose to participate in a 110 kilometre run, to remember each victim, which started a day earlier on 3rd May.

Southern Cross staff members Kevin O'Dwyer, Bradley Banney, Cathy Banney and Duncan Maitland were among 200 staff

from Brisbane Catholic schools to participate in the event.

The Brisbane Catholic Education Office coordinates a number of events in May to mark Domestic Violence Prevention Month to not only raise broader community awareness, but also ensure that victims know where to access help and support.

Catholic schools have also been integrating material into their

curriculum to deliver to students, information and skills to manage issues arising in the domestic and family violence context.

There has been a particularly strong emphasis on this message in the religious education curriculum, drawing upon Pope Francis' vision of a merciful church, committed to supporting families impacted by domestic violence.



St Bede's College honours its talented alumni

Paralympians, judges and AFL footballers were among the talented graduates of St Bede's College Mentone, inducted into the Old Collegian Hall of Fame at a dinner last month.

The Melbourne Lasallian school has a long tradition of honouring alumni who have excelled across many different fields from the sporting field to the medical profession and the political and sporting arenas.

Seven new members were inducted into the Hall of Fame at the dinner in Brighton, including retired Federal Court judge Neil Young QC (class of 1969) and the Managing Director of Bendigo Bank, Michael Hirst (class of 1975).

Gold medal winning Paralympian Kieran Ault-Connell (Class of 1974) and Premiership winning AFL footballer Michael McCarthy (Class of 1974) were also inducted, alongside Chief Examiner of Victoria and AFL Umpire, Stephen McBurney (Class of 1985).

Professional golfer and winner of the 2015 PGA Nathan Holman (Class of 2009) was also made a new member of the Hall of Fame, as was Order of Australia recipient and former CEO of Australian Volunteers International Bill Armstrong (Class of 1950).

The current College leaders Michael Hurst, Joel Harriss and Bradley Shea presented the recipients with their awards and spoke about the ongoing Lasallian traditions at the school.

The Old Collegians all spoke highly of their teachers and reflected back on their fond memories from St Bede's College.

De La Salle Caringbah- a leader in Restorative Justice in schools



Under De La Salle Caringbah's program, time is set aside each school day where teachers can meet with individual students and discuss problems that may have arisen in the classroom that day.

During the conversation, the student is given an opportunity to explain what took place that triggered the concerns, which in turn helps foster greater awareness and maturity as they learn to take greater responsibility for their behaviour.

The teacher also encourages the student to reflect upon how their actions may have impacted upon their classmates and time is also set aside to discuss specific strategies to ensure the behaviour isn't repeated.

"It's very much about separating the doer from the deed", Christopher explained to participants in the Lasallian Spirituality for Educators course at the De La Salle Provincial Office in Sydney.

"It has to be a whole school approach, so all staff members support it and clear expectations are set around what behaviour is acceptable for students and staff", he added.

New staff members receive induction in the restorative justice approach and students all have the college expectations permanently stored as a screensaver on their laptop computers.

"It is a great way of putting core Lasallian principles of education into action", Christopher explains.

"When you look back at St John Baptist de la Salle's landmark document, the Conduct of the Christian Schools, he wrote about the need for careful, respectful and charitable correction by the teacher which is ultimately what Restorative Justice is all about".

Christopher's presentation was well received by teachers who had gathered for last month's Lasallian Spirituality for Educators course, coordinated by the Director of Formation Br John Cantwell.

Teachers from Lasallian schools in New South Wales and Queensland have gathered for the two day course which has drawn heavily upon the writings of Pope Francis on the Mercy of God and the lessons Lasallian educators can draw from these writings in the contemporary classroom.

The Principal of De La Salle Caringbah in Sydney, Christopher Agnew has shared some insights with Lasallian educators into how staff- student relationships have improved immeasurably since the school embraced a Restorative Justice program.

The Years 7-10 all boys school was one of the first Catholic schools in Sydney to introduce the program in 2003 and recently reviewed it to ensure it meets the ongoing needs of staff and students.

A number of other Lasallian schools including De La Salle College Revesby and Casimir College in Marrickville have also adopted restorative justice programs.

Committed Lasallian: Marie Hepi



Religious education teacher and Year 7 Dean at John Paul College Rotorua, Marie Hepi has an inspiring commitment to Lasallian education stretching back over many years.

Marie is about to undertake her third year of study in July at the Buttimer Institute for Lasallian Studies in California which allows participants to undertake a two

week immersion style program, covering in depth study across all aspects of Lasallian history and spirituality.

She has also taken part in leadership programs at the regional level, including a landmark conference in the Philippines in 2011, run by the Lasallian Leadership Institute.

Marie says she has been particularly fortunate working in Rotorua where the Lasallian charism has been nurtured not only through John Paul College, but also through the lay group, Signum Fidei.

Marie attributes the strong Lasallian presence at the school to the legacy left by De La Salle Brothers who have worked in the region in the past, including Mark McKeon, Hilary Walsh and Declan Thompson.

“There is a strong emphasis here upon working with the extended families of students from the school, particularly those from

Pacifiker backgrounds to make them feel very much a part of the Lasallian family”, Marie explains.

Marie also works as an English Support teacher at the Rotorua secondary college which caters for students from nearly 50 different cultural backgrounds.

“Our students come from diverse faith backgrounds too, but they all unite around those common Lasallian values, based on commitment to the disadvantaged and relationships based upon mutual respect and understanding”, Marie adds.

Marie has also been taking an increasingly important role in Lasallian formation programs for new teachers in New Zealand, drawing upon the deep insights she has gained through the Buttimer program.

“As Lasallian teachers, there is a strong emphasis upon nurturing positive relationships with our students”, Marie said.

“Ultimately we can not focus solely on changing minds and ignore the importance of changing hearts as well”.

Around Mangere with Br Lewis Harwood



As a young boy growing up in the central New South Wales town of Dubbo, Br Lewis Harwood never imagined going on to become a De La Salle Brother at a large all boys school in Auckland in far away New Zealand.

Educated by the Christian Brothers, Br Lewis initially opted for a career as a secondary teacher and didn't decide on a religious vocation until he was 25.

Now aged 30, he is one of the youngest De La Salle Brothers in our District and plays a pivotal part in the religious education program at De La Salle College, Mangere.

“The journey started at World Youth Day in Sydney in 2008”, Br Lewis explains.

“The Young Lasallians had set up a vocations expo there and I

started talking to some of the De La Salle Brothers and that definitely sparked an initial curiosity about religious life”.

Br Lewis kept in touch with the Brothers and within two years, his initial curiosity had led to a much greater sense of commitment.

He joined four other young men in the novitiate program at Napa in California, including Br Ken Kalinowski who is currently based at Hohola in Papua New Guinea.

“My faith journey was really enriched during my years there and I came to a much deeper appreciation of the mission of the De La Salle Brother in today's world”, Br Lewis said.

Upon returning to Australia, Br Lewis undertook work across three Lasallian schools, each with their own unique identity- St Bede's College at Mentone, La Salle College at Bankstown and Oakhill College at Castle Hill.

He believes his most rewarding experiences have come from his current work at De La Salle Mangere which caters overwhelmingly for students from Pacific Islander backgrounds in South Auckland.

“I see the great progress being made here in improving literacy skills for many students from struggling backgrounds, with many becoming the first in their families to go on to enter university which is really rewarding” he added.

Br Lewis says he has benefited greatly as a De La Salle Brother from the strong support and encouragement he has received from being part of a global family.

In 2012, he participated in a Gathering for Young Brothers from across the Pacific-Asia Regional Council (PARC), joining 25 other Brothers from eight different countries which helped him form many new friendships across national boundaries.

“We are Brothers without borders and there is such a strong multicultural dimension to our ministry as we reach out to communities in countries where the number of Christians may be small, but our mission is fundamentally the same”, Br Lewis explains.

“Wherever we are, we are drawing upon the central message of St John Baptist de la Salle to provide a human and Christian education to all, with a focus on the poor”.



Fun Runs for the Lasallian Foundation

Funrunners in Sydney and Perth can help raise vital funds for the Lasallian Foundation while getting fit as well.

The WAtoday Swan River Run on 24 July and the City 2 Surf in Sydney on 14 August are both great opportunities to help support the Lasallian Foundation and its programs which help improve the standard of living for communities across the Asia-Pacific region.

Among those running for the Lasallian Foundation in the City 2 Surf this year is the Assistant Youth Ministry Coordinator Jordan Botalico.

“I see this as a great way to support the Foundation's programs, whether that is helping a remote preschool in Papua New Guinea or through promoting greater access to education for girls in Pakistan”, Jordan said.

“I ran the City 2 Surf last year too, but this year I'm planning on setting myself a new challenge to donate more money for every minute I can improve on my personal best time from last year”.

Jordan is encouraging fellow Young Lasallians to also join in the funruns and nominate the Lasallian Foundation as their charity.

Funrunners need to register first on the official event page as well as create their own supporter page through Everyday Hero.

Feel free to contact the Lasallian Foundation via email- fundraising@lasallianfoundation.org if you have any questions.



Lasallian Alumni: Stephen Ager

He has worked for the Australian airline for the past 32 years, playing a pivotal role in training programs for new pilots and in pushing for the introduction of the popular Airbus A380 on international flights.

Stephen attributes a lot of his success to the great work ethic and strong values that were instilled in him when he was a student at St Bede's College.

"I had a lot of great mentors including the Principal at the time, Br Bill Firman who encouraged us all to set high goals and work hard to achieve them and Brothers Paul Smith and Michael McCabe who both instilled in me the importance of strong leadership and teamwork", Stephen explains.

"Everyone was made to feel they could set their sights on achieving whatever they wanted to achieve in an environment where there was also a strong sense of community

where you genuinely cared about your classmates".

Stephen said he received strong encouragement from his teachers at St Bede's to pursue a career in aviation and shortly after completing his Victorian Certificate of Education, he embarked on flight training at Moorabbin Airport

He began working for Qantas in 1984 and his strong leadership skills led him into working as a Training Captain for new pilots.

Stephen made history in 2008 becoming the first pilot to land the state of the art Airbus A380 on Australian soil.

He then took on a key role training new pilots and flight crews as they adapted to the jumbo passenger plane.

"It stems back to the Lasallian values that were passed on to me at St Bede's

College, including the importance of serving others and becoming a good mentor to those embarking on their careers", Stephen explains.

"We're now continuing that tradition through careers nights run by the Old Collegians for students at St Bede's where former students can act as mentors to senior students".

Stephen is also a proud advocate for the Finian Foundation at St Bede's in which Old Collegians help raise funds to help financially disadvantaged families who struggle to cover school fees.

He is very grateful for the sound education he received at St Bede's College and believes alumni networks like the Old Collegians are a great way of helping graduates to contribute back to the school and to stay connected to the broader Lasallian family.

He is a familiar face to many airline passengers around Australia and is also a very proud Lasallian.

Senior Qantas pilot Stephen Ager features in flight safety videos on domestic and international flights and is the current President of the Old Collegians Association at St Bede's College, Mentone.

Lasallian Alumni: Jeff Carmichael AO

From chairing government inquiries through to delivering lectures at Ivy League universities in the United States, Dr Jeff Carmichael has earned a strong reputation as an internationally respected expert in the financial services sector.

An Officer of the Order of Australia, Dr Carmichael was the inaugural Chairman of the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority and spent 20 years with the Reserve Bank and seven years as Professor of Finance at Bond University.

He believes his love of learning and strong moral compass was instilled in him through his Lasallian education

at Oakhill College in Sydney in the late 1960s.

A graduate of the class of 1968, Dr Carmichael spent his primary years in the central NSW town of Mudgee before coming to Sydney as a boarder at the Castle Hill school.

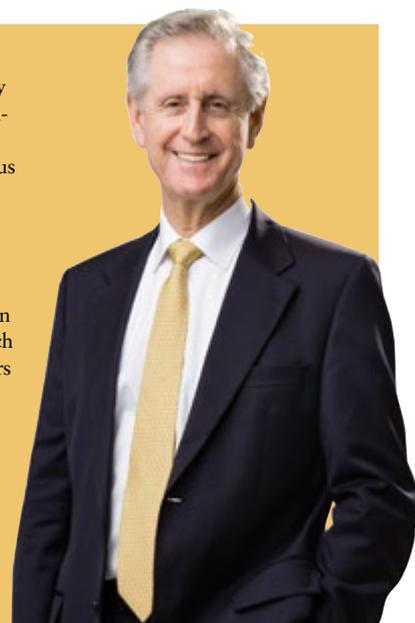
"I particularly enjoyed the maths classes at Oakhill and the strong international focus on social justice", he explains.

"We would have frequent visits from students from the Lasallian schools in Papua New Guinea which helped expose us to other cultures and a different way of life which has stayed with me to this day".

A talented scholar, Jeff Carmichael went on to undertake honours study at the undergraduate and postgraduate level at the University of NSW before gaining a place in a prestigious doctoral program at Princeton University in the United States.

He believes he has drawn strongly upon Lasallian values in his work, especially through his involvement in the Wallis inquiry in the 1990s which led to greater protection for consumers in dealing with banks, insurance companies and pension funds.

Over recent years Dr Carmichael says he has gained a lot of personal satisfaction from helping emerging African nations establish effective frameworks covering their banking and insurance sectors.



New Affiliated Member: John Boeyen

Long-serving Board Member of St Michael's College in Adelaide, John Boeyen has been made an Affiliated Member of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in recognition of his quarter of a

century of involvement in leadership roles at the college.

The Superior General of the De La Salle Brothers, Robert Schieler personally bestowed the honour on John in a ceremony where he

was surrounded by family and supporters including some of the five Principals he has worked with on school boards and committees over recent decades.

John Boeyen's commitment to the Lasallian mission stretches back to 1980 when his son Andrew was enrolled in Year 4 at St Michael's College and John started volunteering his time as an umpire and timekeeper at cricket and football matches.

Ten years later, he was asked by the then Principal Br Paul Rogers to become a member of a committee to prepare a constitution for an advisory College Board.

John drew upon his professional experience as an accountant to become Chair of the school's Finance Committee, a position he has served in for many years.

He was one of the inaugural Directors of St Michael's College in 2005 when the De La Salle Brothers decided to incorporate the College and the other three Colleges in Australia directly owned by the Brothers.

John has been made an Affiliated Member in recognition of his exemplary work, helping to put strong governance measures in place and ensuring that the financial position of St Michael's College has been consistently strong over many years.

He has also won strong praise for his commitment to Lasallian values, marked by a strong personal spirit of faith and zeal, demonstrated also through his active involvement in Henley Beach parish in Adelaide.



Remote schools embracing the Lasallian Mission in PNG

Primary and secondary schools in some of the most remote areas of Papua New Guinea are embracing the Lasallian charism through an innovative project which started last year.

The Lasalle Remote Schools Support Service (LRSS) was only established in August 2015 and yet it has greatly enhanced the support available for teachers in the remote provinces of East Sepik and New Britain.

A driving force behind the project has been Schola Manembe who has taught for 32 years with most of her career spent at St Mary's School in Wewak.

Schola retired from classroom teaching in 2012, but she em-

braced a new challenge when the La Salle National Office in Mount Hagen advertised a position of Project Officer for the new Remote Schools Support Service.

Schola saw a lot of potential in using smartphone technology to share resources with teachers in remote areas, especially through the social networking site, What's App.

The Holy Trinity Teachers College in Mount Hagen has also helped run workshops for teachers from the remote provinces, equipping them with the skills to send and receive email and surf the internet to access classroom resources.

"A growing number of schools in the remote parts of PNG are wanting to join the Lasallian family and so we've started to run formation programs too to help introduce them to Lasallian concepts in education", Schola explains.

Schola is working with a number of principals to help expand the Lasallian mission, including Aloysius Jalapuain, the Principal of Ibab Primary School and Lasallian Family Area Coordinator for East Sepik Province.

"The use of the smartphone technology has really helped us get around the challenges we face because of electricity cuts, for example", Aloysius said.

The Deputy Principal of Holy Trinity Teachers College, Elizabeth Oga says the project is having a fundamental impact in many remote classrooms.

"It's time consuming, but really rewarding work being able to get the resources to where they're needed and ensuring that everyone can benefit from the Lasallian charism, no matter where they are in the country", she said.

The Papua New Guinea Mission Action Committee which was

established late last year has also focused a lot of its efforts on promoting the reach of the Lasallian mission well beyond Port Moresby and the Highlands regions.

To achieve that goal, it has brought together representatives from the remote areas of PNG, including from Momase, the New Guinea Islands and the Southern Region.

It has also received critical support in this effort from the National Catholic Education Office, particularly from key officials in some of the more remote parts of PNG.

The Secretary for Catholic Education in the Kimbe Diocese in New Britain Province, John Silpaga is a member of the PNG Mission Action Committee.

"We are bringing the Lasallian Mission to remote areas who have never heard of John Baptist de la Salle before, but they are closely identifying with his core values and what he stood for", John explains.

"We're also focusing on encouraging more teachers and teaching graduates to work in these schools who may have been reluctant before because of their remoteness and that's been a very rewarding part of the work as well".



Aloysius Jalapuain, Elizabeth Oga and Schola Manembe

Lasallian Alumni: Br John Francis Gari

A proud graduate of De La Salle Secondary School at Bomana, Br Francis as he is commonly known, has been a committed Lasallian for well over 20 years.

Born in the village of Galeba, near Port Moresby, Br Francis had such fond memories from his time at a Lasallian school that he felt compelled to give back to the Lasallian family in PNG by becoming a Brother.

After undertaking novice training in Lipa in the Philippines, he took his initial vows four years ago in a moving ceremony at Bomana, surrounded by family and friends.

His faith journey has been strengthened through being able

to contribute back to his old school, particularly in the field of religious education.

Br Francis has also taken an active role over recent years in vocations ministry, helping to inspire young Papua New Guinean men to consider a religious life.

"While the number of Brothers here in the country is relatively small, the impact of the lay partners is very strong, especially across schools and teachers colleges", Br Francis explains.

"The lay partners are increasingly taking the lead and showing great initiative as they help to keep the Lasallian mission so vibrant across PNG", he adds.

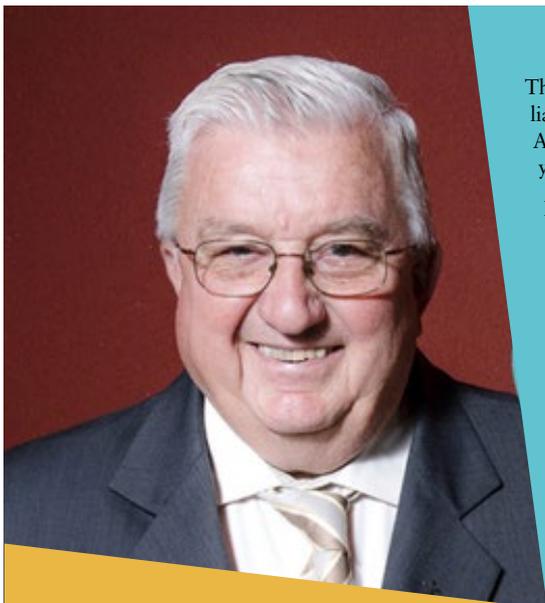


The tremendous dedication and zeal evident in the Lasallian mission in PNG is particularly strong this year as the country marks 70 continuous years of Lasallian education.

One highlight of the year so far was the recent visit by Superior General Br Robert Schieler to schools and teachers colleges in Port Moresby in what was the

first visit by a Superior General to PNG in 30 years.

"Br Bob's visit has helped to awaken the Lasallian charism and spirituality in PNG because he brought that great sense of hope and optimism with him and helped us feel a stronger connection to the global Lasallian family", Br Francis said.



Br Ambrose Payne leaves a strong legacy at yourtown

The Board of Directors and staff at the Lasallian charity yourtown have paid tribute to Br Ambrose Payne who recently retired after 14 years of dedicated service as Chair.

Br Ambrose, who is currently based in Rome as Interim Bursar of the Institute, has made a remarkable contribution to the life of the De La Salle Brothers and celebrated his Diamond Jubilee with the order last month.

His contribution extends to leadership roles as Principal of a number of Lasallian schools and as a pioneering leader in the field of Catholic higher education in Australia, recognised with the highest possible award from the Australian Catholic University- a Doctor of the University.

The Sydney-born Brother has also received an Order of Australia for his decades-long contribution to education.

Br Ambrose became the Chair of the then BoysTown Limited when

the organisation incorporated as a public company limited by guarantee in 2002.

His exemplary leadership and unwavering commitment to Lasallian values has helped strengthen the services offered by the charity, allowing it to help tens of thousands of disadvantaged young people every year.

Under Br Ambrose's leadership as Chair, yourtown has been able to expand its support programs for homeless families and its accommodation for women and children escaping domestic violence.

It has also been able to expand its employment and training programs and strengthen its research and advocacy in social policy.

The executive leadership and staff of yourtown have expressed their immense gratitude to Br Ambrose for his guidance, wisdom and commitment to the organisation.

Lasallian Outreach to Bonded Labourers in Pakistan- by Br Rehman Javed

Young Lasallians from schools in Faisalabad have offered support through food packages for bonded labourers during a visit to a brick kiln on the outskirts of the city.

The workers live in appalling conditions and are forced to work permanently to pay off crippling debts to their employers.

They are generally uneducated and left with few options, caught in a vicious cycle of poverty.

They often accept whatever pay is offered to them in exchange for years of bonded labour and are not covered by labour laws because of the casual, informal nature of their work.

More than two million people are enslaved in Pakistan and the problem is most severe in the Punjab and Sindh provinces.

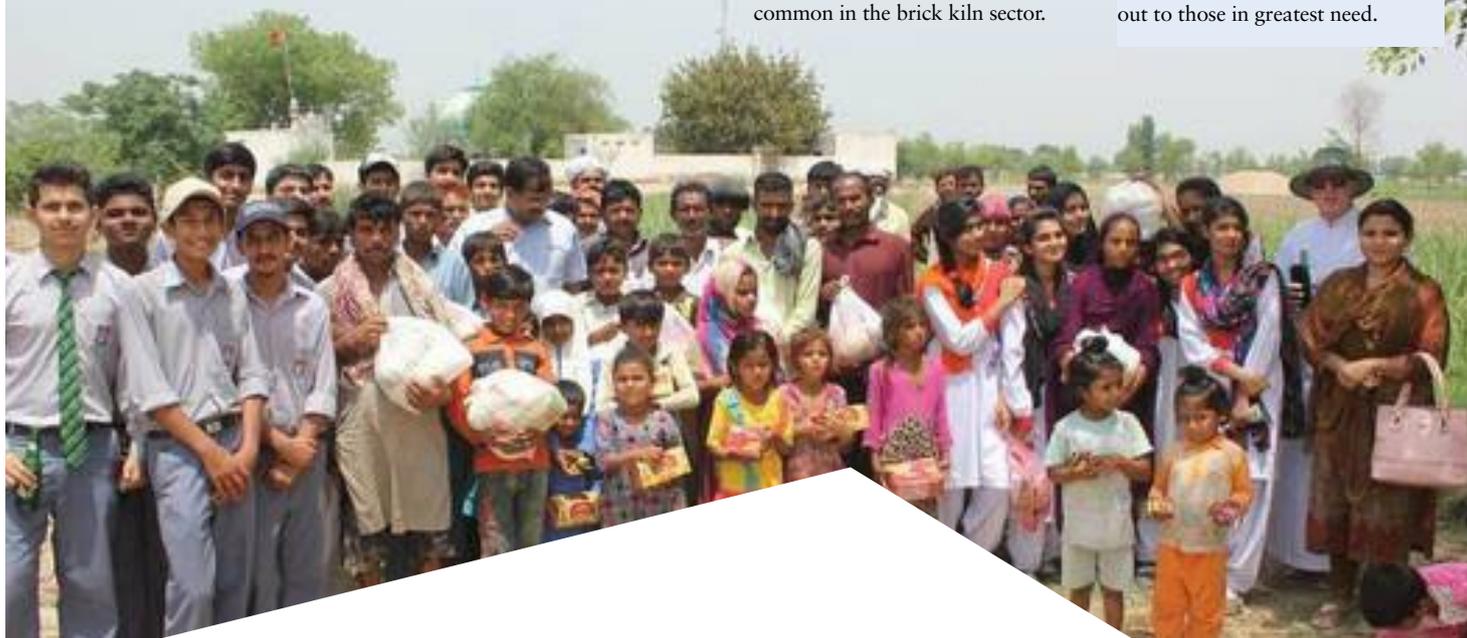
The sale and purchase of brick kiln labour has become a profitable business.

“Peshghi” or bonded labour is being transferred from one generation to the next and is particularly common in the brick kiln sector.

It was a good opportunity for the Young Lasallians from Faisalabad to see this form of poverty first hand and to offer support to the workers and their families.

The Young Lasallians were able to visit ten families at the brick kiln and worked alongside Br Aloysius Hurrell to distribute food packages to them.

It was a great demonstration of Lasallian spirit, drawing upon the inspiration of the Founder to reach out to those in greatest need.



Around Mentone

Q&A with Br Peter Gilfedder

Br Peter Gilfedder has some truly remarkable stories to share from his over 65 years as a De La Salle Brother.

An Old Boy of De La Salle College Malvern, Br Peter is a gifted theologian, linguist and teacher educator who has spent lengthy stints in Italy, France, Papua New Guinea, Burkina Faso and the Ivory Coast.

His journey began in 1950 when he became a Brother after undertaking his novice and scholastic training in Sydney before being sent to Adelaide as one of the pioneer Brothers when St Michael's College was first established in 1954.

Br Peter's strong interest in theological studies took him to Rome in 1965 where he studied at the Jesus Magister Pontifical Institute and then to Lyons in France where he completed licentiates in theology and in religious education in 1970.

The Melbourne-born Brother believes the good language teaching by Brothers at De La Salle Malvern helped to give him a strong grounding in French and Latin which greatly enhanced his theological studies.

"The professors of theology in Europe encouraged us to read the writings of the great theologians in their first language because a lot of the meaning can be lost in translation", Br Peter explains.

In 1970, Br Peter returned to Australia where in 1971 he took up the position of first Director of the Initial Training Programme at the Oakhill Training College.

He also played a pivotal role for 10 years in teacher education during the early time of the Catholic College of Education at Castle Hill, developed by Br Ambrose Payne, which made a contribution to the formation of the Australian Catholic University.

But Br Peter believes that some of his most rewarding years as a De La Salle Brother were spent in Papua New Guinea, where he was Principal of the Holy Trinity Teachers College (HTTC) in Mount Hagen for ten years, 1985-1994.

"In the early 1980s, the new Diocese of Kundiawa was formed around while I was at Rosary High School Kondiu and the Bishop appointed me as Catholic Education Secretary and Religious Education Coordinator for the whole diocese which was a really good preparation for HTTC", Br Peter explains.

"I came away inspired by the dedication of the teachers and the pupils, with many walking long distances to access education every day".



Br Peter presenting an award to a student at the Holy Trinity Teachers College in Mount Hagen

One of Br Peter's greatest challenges came ahead of him in the mid 1990s when the then Superior General Br John Johnston established the Mission 100 Plus program, which encouraged Brothers from around the world to volunteer in areas of greatest need. Br John requested Br Peter to travel to CELAF – the African Lasallian Centre in Abidjan in the Ivory Coast where he lectured students in theology - in French - from French-speaking countries such as Rwanda, Madagascar and Congo.

"Many of the students from Rwanda were highly traumatised following the massacre that took place in the country only a few years beforehand", Br Peter said.

"But it was very rewarding there being able to see nuns and De La Salle Brothers undertaking courses – a few going as far as doctorates through a Jesuit university of which CELAF was part of the Education faculty.

Br Peter returned to Rome in the late 1990s where he held the position of Executive Secretary to the Superior General of the De La

Salle Brothers for nearly ten years, which included some assistance in the work of the General Chapters of 2000 and 2007.

Br Peter has seen great changes over his nearly seven decades as a De La Salle Brother and he is very optimistic about the future of the Lasallian mission in today's world.

"I marvel at the empowerment of the Lasallian partners and the way in which all the great Lasallian formation resources and writings are so much more accessible today than they were in past decades", Br Peter explains.

"This is in no small part due to the efforts of theologians like Br Gerard Rummery and Br John Cantwell who have helped engage the teachers of today with that rich and ongoing Lasallian story".

In next month's issue:

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- The Boomerang Effect
- Committed Lasallian: John Dunn
- Around Mount Hagen: Br Luke Warvanuk

To contribute to the newsletter, please contact, Michael Kenny
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Australia
2016

Lasallian Youth Ministry Workshop
Phillip Island, Victoria
4 July

Catholic Lasallian Heritage (Level One) Sydney
26-27 July

World Youth Day celebrations
St Bede's College Mentone
30 July

2017

Lasallian Leaders Gathering
Wollongong, NSW
26-28 February

New Zealand
2016

Lasallian Retreat, Auckland
17-22 July

NZ Lasallians Gathering, Hamilton
17 September

2017

Lasallian Womens Symposium, Auckland
16-18 July

Pakistan
2016

Annual Retreat 2016, Murree
12-18 June

Canonical Visit of Br Visitor David Hawke
3-10 October

Papua New Guinea
2016

Student Leaders formation program
11th June

National Gathering of Lasallian Teachers in PNG
10-13 July

Back to Bomana, 70th anniversary celebrations of the De La Salle Brothers in PNG
27-28 August

What makes a Lasallian Leader? - formation program
29 October